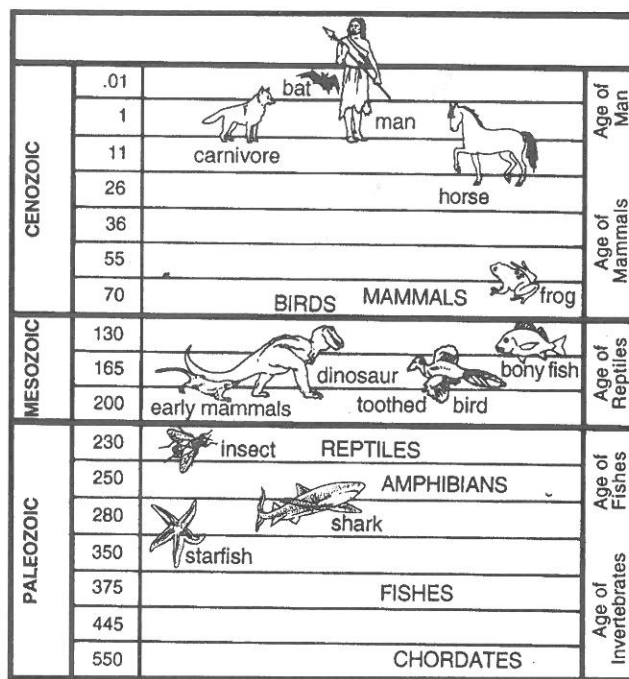


## 11. Fossil History

Whom came first on earth? Was it the insects or the birds? A geologic time line can tell us. Geologists divide the earth's history into various units of time, and the greater unit of time is called an era. Our earliest fossil records of animal life on earth date back to the Cenozoic era. Insects appeared in the Paleozoic era and have remained unchanged for over 200 million years. The first birds, however, were toothless and appeared in the Mesozoic era during the Age of Fishes. An age is a time period used by biologists to indicate when one animal species is dominant. Modern toothless birds did not develop until the Cenozoic era. The earliest mammals appeared in the Mesozoic Era, but the Age of Mammals did not begin until 130 million years later in the Cenozoic era.



The geologic time line above covers the stages of development in animal life on earth. In geologic time, eras can be subdivided into epochs and periods. The three eras are named at left. Numbers refer to millions of years ago (the Age of Mammals began 70 million years ago).

Find the 10 errors in this activity. There are no errors in the illustration or the caption.

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